

(Task 1738)

Bond Release Findings

Mine Name: Monoclinic
Operator: William Harrison
101 Azurite Blvd.
P. O. Box 283
La Sal, Utah 84530

I.D. No.: S0370085
Mineral Ownership: BLM and patented
Surface Ownership: BLM and patented
Permit Term: Originally permitted in 1994

Disturbed Area: Permitted for 5 acres; actual disturbed area unknown but probably about 3 acres

Regraded: Entire area regraded, about 3 acres

Reseeded: Entire area reseeded, about 3 acres

Acres Bonded: No bond being held

Acres Proposed for Release: Entire area, about 3 acres

Acres Recommended for Release: Entire area, about 3 acres

Acres Remaining: No area would remain

Surety

Amount: None

Form: N/A

Amount Proposed for Release: N/A

Amount Released: N/A

Amount Remaining: N/A

Setting and Premining Environment

This mine site is on both sides of the road leading south from the La Sal area to Lisbon Valley and Big Indian Valley. It is a few hundred yards north of the turnoff to Lisbon Valley.

The entire area was previously disturbed by a copper mine known as the Keystone Wallace Mine and probably by other names. There is almost no vegetation, even weeds, on some of the disturbed areas, but other areas have good growth of rabbitbrush. It appears some of the soils may have toxic characteristics, possibly low pH levels. The area around the mine pit was not regraded when the old mine was closed, so the terrain is irregular. Runoff from most of the area would flow into the old mine pit.

Undisturbed areas around the mine contain sagebrush/grass and pinyon/juniper communities. The land uses that existed prior to any mining were wildlife habitat and grazing, but because of the lack of vegetation following disturbance from the Keystone Wallace Mine, there was little use of the land prior to disturbance from the current operation.

Operations

The operator collected specimens of azurite and malachite. This was mostly done by hand, but the operator sometimes used a backhoe. There were no surface facilities on the mine site; the operator took the specimens to a quonset hut across the road from the mine and next to his residence where he would sort them. No topsoil was available for salvage because of the previous disturbance.

Hole Plugging

No holes were drilled or plugged.

Reclamation

The disturbed areas were regraded and were seeded four times with very little success. In the last attempt at seeding in 2005, the operator did a very good job roughening the site and seeding in the fall, but there was little or no germination.

In 2005, the operator requested a variance from revegetation requirements, and the Division responded that it would like to see whether vegetation becomes established before granting the variance.

Mine Engineering

There are no public safety problems at the reclaimed mine site. There are no highwalls or similar features, and no deleterious materials were used in the mining operation.

Hydrology

There are no drainage channels running through the site. Runoff from most of the disturbed area would flow into the adjacent mine pit. There are a few areas where runoff would flow into ditches next to the road, but these areas are small enough that they do not create any flooding or sedimentation problems. There are no perennial waters near the mine. Although there is little vegetation, I have not observed erosion features. The mine did not include roads.

Revegetation

The operator requested a variance from revegetation requirements, but the Division never specifically granted this request. Instead, the operator seeded the area one last time, and the Division said it would wait and see whether anything would grow.

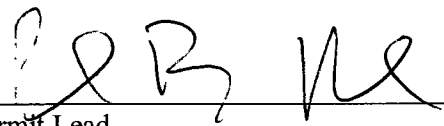
There are a few volunteer plants in the disturbed area, mostly Indian ricegrass, but the operator's work to seed the area appears to have been totally unsuccessful. There is, however, essentially no difference between the mine site and adjacent areas that were also previously disturbed.

Recommendation

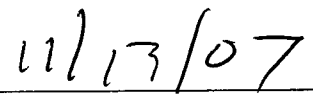
I recommend that the site be released based on the following:

1. The operator seeded four times. I cannot verify what methods were used the first three times, but the operator did a very good job roughening the site in the last attempt. I believe the operator has satisfactorily completed reclamation within practical limits.
2. The vegetation matches the vegetation in surrounding areas.
3. The site has been regraded to approximate pre-mining conditions.
4. There are no hazardous conditions

The BLM closed its file for this site on January 17, 2006.



Permit Lead



Date